

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-16 (Canceled).

17. (New) A counterweight for a hydraulic shovel,  
comprising:

a central base portion; and

supporting column portions extending vertically at left and  
5 right sides of the central base portion;

wherein the supporting column portions are taller than the  
central base portion; and

wherein a floor frame of the hydraulic shovel is provided  
vertically over the supporting column portions, such that the  
10 supporting column portions support and are coupled to the floor  
frame.

18. (New) The counterweight for the hydraulic shovel  
according to claim 17, further comprising at least one opening  
and closing support point of an outer casing of the hydraulic  
shovel provided on at least one of the supporting column  
portions.

19. (New) The counterweight for the hydraulic shovel  
according to claim 18, wherein the opening and closing support  
point comprises a hinge.

20. (New) The counterweight for the hydraulic shovel according to claim 17, wherein the supporting column portions further support at least one of a canopy, at least one outer casing of the hydraulic shovel and at least one engine partition wall of the hydraulic shovel.

21. (New) The counterweight for the hydraulic shovel according to claim 20, further comprising at least one opening and closing support point of the at least one outer casing provided on at least one of the supporting column portions.

22. (New) The counterweight for the hydraulic shovel according to claim 17, wherein an engine is placed at a position in front of and between the supporting column portions at the left and right of the central base portion.

23. (New) The counterweight for the hydraulic shovel according to claim 22, further comprising at least one opening and closing support point of an outer casing of the hydraulic shovel provided on at least one of the supporting column portions.